

the Veteran's Affairs Hands and Heart Award. The award is an annual recognition given to one employee in each VA medical facility whose "sustained, compassionate, direct patient care is exceptional."

Jessica is a recreation therapist for the Manchester VA Medical Center Nursing Home who provides emotional support, help and guidance to patients above and beyond the call of duty. I comment Jessica for the caring and professional expertise she provides to VA hospital patients.

Staff and volunteers from the Manchester VA facility were included in the nomination process and all agreed that Jessica is an outstanding asset to the nursing home who consistently demonstrates courteous, friendly, and respectful care for the patients.

Jessica has served the veterans of the Manchester VA Medical Center Nursing Home with dedication and concern. As a veteran of the Vietnam war and senior member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, I applaud her achievements and professionalism. The citizens of New Hampshire own Jessica a debt of thanks for her exemplary services.

I wish Jessica continued success in her professional endeavors at the Manchester VA Medical Center Nursing Home. It is truly an honor and a privilege to represent her in the United States.●

MISSOURI STATE SENATOR PAULA CARTER

● Mrs. CARNAHAN. Mr. President, today I rise to honor the memory of a fearless leader and influential figure in Missouri politics, State Senator Paula J. Carter.

A native of Saint Louis, Senator Carter got involved in politics in the '60s. Her rise from Democratic precinct worker to an influential figure in the Missouri General Assembly clearly demonstrates the fact that one person can make a tremendous difference in the lives of all.

During her tenure in the Missouri House and Senate, she was a fierce defender and protector of peoples' rights. To her it never mattered who her foes were. At a time when many accepted inequity and injustice as the way it always was, she saw them as challenges to be overcome. When other politicians asked, "Can we win?" Senator Carter asked "Should we fight?" More often than not, the answer was a rousing "Yes!" Her efforts on behalf of women and minorities will never be forgotten.

In addition to her legislative and civic successes, Senator Carter was proud of her role as a mother and grandmother. Wardell, Gregory, Keena, and Willie Christopher will attempt to carry on their mother's tradition, each in their own way, as will, also, her seven grandchildren.

Though there are still causes to champion and battle to fight, this tireless advocate has been called to rest. May we all find inspiration in her deeds and renew our commitment to public service, a calling worthy of our lives.●

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

● Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KENNEDY in March of this year. The Local Law Enforcement Act of 2001 would add new categories to current hate crimes legislation sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred September 6, 1996 in Washington, D.C. The assailant, Michael J. Monts, 29, was charged with simple assault and assault with a deadly weapon for allegedly attacking a gay man in July 1996. Monts was ultimately convicted of assault with a deadly weapon in connection to that crime.

I believe that government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2001 is now a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation, we can change hearts and minds as well.●

WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY MOBILE HEALTH AND WELLNESS UNIT

● Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise this morning to pay tribute to the Western Kentucky University, WKU, Mobile Health and Wellness Program. I worked vigorously to secure funding for this important initiative which will provide needed health care services to the families of rural Kentucky. I am pleased to announce that the WKU Mobile Health and Wellness Unit will be dedicated this afternoon in a ceremony in Morgantown, KY.

America has led the world in developing exciting medical advances and innovations during the last decade. New diagnostic tools, like PET Scans and MRI's, allow physicians to detect serious diseases in their earliest stages and treat patients before they become seriously ill. Advancements in pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, and medical devices also allow doctors to successfully cure illnesses that would have been fatal just a few years ago.

Unfortunately, many of the miracles of modern medicine are not always available to the citizens of rural Kentucky. For far too many rural Kentuckians, economic and geographic barriers impede access to even the most basic medical and dental screenings. As a result, these men, women, and children frequently lag be-

hind their peers in many accepted measures of general health.

Western Kentucky University recognizes that limited access to health care services is a critical problem confronting the people of south-central Kentucky. To address this problem, WKU decided that if families living in rural communities are not able to travel to receive adequate care, then WKU should bring health care services to rural communities through a Mobile Health Clinic.

When Dr. Gary Ransdell, President of WKU, approached me with the idea for their mobile health program, I was immediately impressed by the potential of this vehicle to bring quality health care to the citizens of rural Kentucky. Our shared vision is that such a clinic can provide basic health care services such as physicals, well-child check-ups, PSA's, mammographies, and basic dental screenings. With that in mind, I was proud to use my position on the Senate Appropriations Committee to secure \$700,000 for this important initiative in the Fiscal Year 2001 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Appropriations Bill.

I believe that all Kentuckians, whether they live in the smallest hollows or the biggest cities, should have access to basic health care services and the most modern screening technologies. WKU's Mobile Health and Wellness Program, which will be dedicated today, is an important step in that direction. I look forward to working with Western Kentucky University on this and other successful programs designed to improve the lives of Kentucky's citizens.●

TRIBUTE TO BAE SYSTEMS

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the Business Unit of BAE Systems of Nashua, NH, for being named as one of five companies in the country to receive the Pro Patria Award. The award is given to companies which are supportive of military reservists.

The Information and Electronic Warfare Systems business unit received the award on October 11, 2001, at a ceremony at the Pentagon following a presidential proclamation ceremony in the Rose Garden of the White House.

BAE was nominated for the Pro Patria Award by Pete Kilger, department manager for BAE's Systems Engineering in the Information Dominance Systems area and a member of the Naval Reserve. BAE was chosen for the prestigious award because of its outstanding support and understanding for employees in the military reserves.

BAE does work for the U.S. military services and values the exemplary contributions of employee reservists and the contributions they make to New Hampshire and the country. BAE is one of the largest employers of reservists